

THE WIDENING FLYNN SCANDAL

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, are we witnessing the first Manchurian presidency in the history of the United States?

This resignation of President Trump's National Security Adviser, Michael Flynn, has done nothing to end the controversy surrounding the administration's relationship with Russia. I am calling for an independent investigation into Flynn's actions.

The White House knew for weeks that Flynn misled about his secret communications with the Russian Ambassador, but apparently that was not a problem for the Trump administration as long as it was hidden from the public.

Did the White House authorize Flynn's secret communications? Did the President? Why wasn't Flynn gone sooner?

We don't know yet the answers to these and other questions. What we do know is that the Trump administration is not prepared to protect this Nation.

For all their talk of national security, Republicans are giving President Trump a pass. An independent investigation into Flynn's actions is needed. The investigation must determine if improper relationships between the Trump administration and the Russian Government exist.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are demanding to know, and they deserve to know just how tight Russia's grip is on the Trump administration.

CUT BUREAUCRACY OUT OF THE CASEWORK PROCESS

(Mr. MEEHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 512, the WINGMAN Act. The WINGMAN Act will help Members of Congress and our staff members better assist the constituents that we serve. It cuts bureaucracy out of the casework process, and it makes it easier to connect Pennsylvania families with the services and benefits that they need.

Our staff members in our district do tremendous work every day. They help constituents and their families navigate the Federal bureaucracy, whether it is helping veterans obtain care through the VA, seniors access their Medicare or Social Security benefits, or even helping a traveler obtain a passport for an emergency trip overseas. Too often that work goes unsung and the hard work they do goes unrecognized.

I am blessed to have a terrific staff in my district office, led by my district chief of staff, Caitlin Ganley. Our team, Bill Dondero, Maureen Quinn,

Alaina Sforza, and Brian Gallie have helped literally thousands of individuals as we have worked to cut through the red tape and get the answers they need from the agencies across the Federal Government. The WINGMAN Act will make this difficult job just a little bit easier, and I am proud to support it.

WHAT IS THE RUSSIAN CONNECTION

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, after only 24 days in office, President Trump's National Security Adviser, Michael Flynn, resigned in disgrace.

Why?

He had direct contact with the Russian Ambassador, assuring him, in likely violation of U.S. law, that the Obama sanctions against Russia would be reversed. And then he lied about it.

There is evidence of Trump campaign officials having regular contact with Russians officials, and we know Russia hacked into DNC files and doled out stolen information with the goal of aiding the Trump campaign.

So the question is: What is the Russian connection?

Congress must do its job. We should conduct a full-scale, no-holds-barred investigation of the links between the Trump campaign and Russian officials. There is a mountain of evidence we cannot ignore.

The American people have a right to know, of course. But even more importantly, the enduring strength of our democracy is being tested. Congress must maintain our constitutional protection of checks and balances. Investigate now. Investigate fully.

THE STATUS QUO IS UNSUSTAINABLE

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, we have seen more troubling signs this week that things continue to get worse under the healthcare law.

Humana announced they are dropping out of the ObamaCare marketplace next year. The CEO of Aetna said that ObamaCare is in a "death spiral."

Families in Michigan and across the country are left with fewer choices and soaring costs. Mari, from Jackson, in my district, is one of them. Her premiums nearly quadrupled last year under ObamaCare; and this year, her premiums went up so high, she could not afford to pay them. So she and her husband, who is self-employed, dropped the plan and now are going without any health insurance at all.

The status quo is simply unsustainable, and we are working to provide relief to families who are struggling. This will be an orderly, step-by-step process as we transition to

patient-centered solutions that lower costs, increase choices, maintain pre-existing conditions coverage, and meet the needs of all Americans. That is what Mari and every single American deserves.

TITLE X FUNDING FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

(Mr. SCHNEIDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today deeply disappointed that the House has again put attacking women's health over the important priorities the American people sent us here to address.

More than 4 million individuals across the country, many of them low-income, uninsured, or young, depend on title X for family planning and related preventative care. This is lifesaving care: birth control, HIV and other STI testing, and cancer screenings, to name a few.

The resolution that passed today allows States to deny trusted reproductive healthcare providers from receiving title X funds for purely ideological reasons. Already, 14 States have taken official action to exclude Planned Parenthood and other critical reproductive healthcare providers from serving patients through the title X program.

This shameful legislation puts politics ahead of women's health and does a disservice to women and families across our Nation.

WHY THE MEDIA ATTACKS PRESIDENT TRUMP

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is no surprise that the media's credibility has hit a record low with the American people, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

The media attacked President Trump because he proved their predictions wrong and their candidate lost. They attack him because they are mostly liberal Democrats and he is a conservative Republican. They attack him because he is reversing many of the policies of President Obama, whom they openly supported. They attack him because he is going around them, directly to the American people with his Twitter messages. They attack him because they can't intimidate or control him.

The media's hate is poisoning the country.

Wouldn't it be better for our country if the media gave the American people the facts rather than told them what to think?

Wouldn't it be better for our country if the media treated the President fairly and without malice?